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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/980,503	03/06/2002	Jean-Philippe Borel	SCP061774	5539

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EXAMINER

ABRISHAMKAR, KAVEH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2131

DATE MAILED: 05/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/980,503

Applicant(s)

BOREL, JEAN-PHILIPPE

Examiner

Kaveh Abrishamkar

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 February 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on February 16, 2006 has been entered.

2. Claims 1, and 3-6 are currently pending.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed February 16, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive for the following reasons:

Regarding amended claim 1, the Applicant argues that the CPA, Gurantz (U.S. Patent No. 5,936,660) in view of Ushiyama (U.S. Patent No. 6,349,140), do not teach "first and second descrambling modules" and "respective first and second management means for driving the conversions of the first and second scrambled signals via selected ones of the first and second descrambling modules." These arguments are not found persuasive. Gurantz teaches independent chains containing "independent tuning, demodulation, and video decompression chain for each independently operating

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television set" (column 2 lines 43-47). These independent chains providing the operations of tuning, demodulating, and descrambling, which are asserted to be equivalent with providing independent processing pathways which provide a descrambled signal. The limitation of providing two different management means to drive the conversion of the first and second scrambled signals is believed to be present in the secondary reference of record (Ushiyama). Ushiyama teaches a system wherein scrambled signals are received and output as descrambled signals to a plurality of televisions (Figure 4). There are at least two different subscriber terminal units (converter boxes), which operate in a master/slave relationship. The two boxes are both capable of requesting channels (column 4 lines 4-39), though the request is relayed through the master box, and therefore, both have their own management means. Therefore, the rejection is respectfully maintained as given below, and applied to the amended claims as given below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1, and 3-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gurantz (U.S. Patent No. 5,936,66) in view of Ushiyama (U.S. Patent No. 6,349,140).

Regarding claim 1, Gurantz discloses:

A pay-per-use communication device, in particular for television pictures. Gurantz discloses

“at least two input interfaces for receiving first and second scrambled signals bearing information subject to pay-per-use” (Figure 3 item 102, column 4 lines 3 – 17, column 4 lines 27-47), where the scrambled signal is received from a cable drop or other video source and is received at one of multiple tuners and wherein a plurality of scrambled signals are received at a plurality of converter boxes at a household premises and transformed into unscrambled signals which are sent to a plurality of television sets,

“first and second processing pathways having respective first and second descrambling modules able to undertake the conversion of the first and second scrambled signals via selected ones of the first and second descrambling modules, and provide the descrambled signals to at least two output interfaces” (Figure 3 item 102, column 4 lines 3 – 17, column 4 lines 27-47), where the scrambled signal is received from a cable drop or other video source and is received at one of multiple tuners and wherein a plurality of scrambled signals are received at a plurality of converter boxes at a household premises and transformed into unscrambled signals which are sent to a plurality of television sets,

“An access control module able to cooperate with a memory card for conditioning the operation of the first and second processing pathways” (Figure 3 item 110 and item

116, column 3 lines 16-27) where a conditional access unit (access control module) is used in conjunction with a smart card (memory card) to store user access entitlements, and

Gurantz does not explicitly disclose “first and second processing pathways ***comprising first and second management means for driving the conversions of the first and second scrambled signals***, and in ***that first management means is arranged to communicate with the access control module to activate the conversion of the first scrambled signals, and the second management means is arranged to communicate with the access control module by way of the first management means to activate the conversion of the second scrambled signals.***”

Ushiyama teaches a system wherein scrambled signals are received and output as descrambled signals to a plurality of televisions (Figure 4). There are at least two different subscriber terminal units (converter boxes), which operate in a master/slave relationship. The two boxes are both capable of requesting channels (column 4 lines 4-39), though the request is relayed through the master box, and therefore, both have their own management means. Gurantz and Ushiyama are analogous arts as both pertain to receiving a scrambled television signal and descrambling the signal before distributing it to a plurality of television sets. Using two management systems as disclosed in Ushiyama would be beneficial in an environment of Gurantz because, as Ushiyama states, it provides a system “allowing the user to see pay channel programs with a plurality of TV receivers or the like in the house of the subscriber at a moderate cost” (column 2 lines 6-10) and further provides the capability of a user in a different

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room to view request and view a pay channel without being doubly charged (column 1 lines 46-61). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the at least two management means of Ushiyama in the descrambling environment of Gurantz to achieve the cost benefits and flexibility of requesting pay channels at any room in a building.

Claim 3 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 1. Gurantz does not explicitly disclose "the first management means are devised, on the one hand, to receive from the access control module, at predetermined time intervals, first and second control messages, for the respective conversions of the first and second scrambled signals, and, on the other hand, to transmit the said second control messages to the second management means." Ushiyama teaches a system wherein scrambled signals are received and output as descrambled signals to a plurality of televisions (Figure 4). There are at least two different subscriber terminal units (converter boxes), which operate in a master/slave relationship. The two boxes are both capable of requesting channels (column 4 lines 4-39), though the request is relayed through the master box, and therefore, both have their own management means. Gurantz and Ushiyama are analogous arts as both pertain to receiving a scrambled television signal and descrambling the signal before distributing it to a plurality of television sets. Using two management systems as disclosed in Ushiyama would be beneficial in an environment of Gurantz because, as Ushiyama states, it provides a system "allowing the user to see pay channel programs with a plurality of TV receivers or the like in the house of the

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subscriber at a moderate cost" (column 2 lines 6-10) and further provides the capability of a user in a different room to view request and view a pay channel without being doubly charged (column 1 lines 46-61). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the at least two management means of Ushiyama in the descrambling environment of Gurantz to achieve the cost benefits and flexibility of requesting pay channels at any room in a building.

Claim 4 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 3. Furthermore, Gurantz discloses:

Device according to claim 3, wherein "the first and second management means respectively comprise a first and a second processor, which are devised so as to respectively drive first and second descrambling modules for descrambling the first and second scrambled signals" (Figure 3, column 4 lines 4 - 48), where a plurality of scrambled signals are received at a plurality of converter boxes at a household premises and transformed into unscrambled signals which are sent to a plurality of television sets.

Claim 5 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 4. Furthermore, Gurantz discloses:

Device according to claim 4. Gurantz does not explicitly disclose "the first processor is able to drive the second processor according to a protocol of the

master/slave type.” Ushiyama does disclose “a first processor driving a second processor according to a master/slave type protocol” (Figure 4, column 2 lines 26 - 50), where Ushiyama discloses a parent subscriber unit terminal (master) comprising a control unit which controls the switching of the descrambled information descrambled by the descrambling units of the parent (master) or the child (slave) units. Gurantz and Ushiyama are analogous arts as both pertain to receiving a scrambled television signal and descrambling the signal before distributing it to a plurality of television sets. The master/slave protocol used in Ushiyama would be beneficial in an environment of Gurantz because, as Ushiyama states, the master/slave relationship provides a system “allowing the user to see pay channel programs with a plurality of TV receivers or the like in the house of the subscriber at a moderate cost” (column 2 lines 6-10) and further provides “an information receiving system for allowing the number of subscriber terminal units controlled by a center to be decreased, thereby reducing the load of the processing performed by the center” (column 2 lines 1 - 5). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the master/slave relationship of Ushiyama in the descrambling environment of Gurantz to achieve the cost benefits and the reduced load of the processing performed by the distribution center provided by this relationship.

Claim 6 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 4. Furthermore, Gurantz discloses:

Device according to claim 4, wherein “the first and second input interfaces are

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linked to means for receiving radio frequency waves" (column 2 lines 35-43), where the input interfaces can receive signals from a cable drop or a satellite (RF waves), and in that

"The first and second processing pathways respectively comprise frequency converters each adapted to a polarization of the radio frequency waves transmitted by a satellite" (Figure 3 items 104, 106, 108, column 4 lines 19-48), where the signal is received by the tuner, then demodulated, decompressed, modulated and sent to a plurality of television sets.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kaveh Abrishamkar whose telephone number is 571-272-3786. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

KA
05/06/2006

CHRISTOPHER REVAL
PRIMARY EXAMINER

CR 5/9/06